Martian Arts

Dave Goode interviews ex-NASA scientist Richard Hoagland, tireless researcher into the suface anomolies discovered in the Cydonia region of Mars

Above: Mars

Below: Original & computer enhanced aerial photographs of apparently geometric object above the surface of the moon

Last month I was fortunate enough to be able to interview Richard Hoagland, about whom much has been written in AA&ES and other magazines, books and papers, on his most recent visit to the UK. Richard pioneered the work on analysing the NASA photographs taken of certain anomolous structures on the surface of Mars. Whilst NASA policy has been to remain silent, or to reject outright the valuable work done by him and many others, the research has been gaining momentum. This month we're delighted to have a 16 page insert detailing research done by Ananda Sirisena, the UK's foremost 'Face on Mars' expert. Much of the groundwork was done by Hoagland and his team of researchers and he has been tireless in bringing the controversy to the public and in putting pressure on NASA to take another look at the Cydonia region of Mars. Spacecraft are due to leave at the end of this year, and next, and so far NASA have resisted public pressure to plan in another look.

Most of the pictures showing the now famous anomolies were taken from a height of 1600km at relatively low resolution. To give you an example, most of the graphic images in this magazine are made up of dots, of which there are 240 per square inch. On the Voyager mission the resolution was such that one pixel represented an area of 80 square kilometres! No wonder those whose interest was roused by the anomolies want NASA to go back for another, closer, look.

Hoagland worked for NASA in the 1970s as a consultant. When his contract finished he went on to work for several other scientific bodies until his attention was captured by the Voyager images from Mars in 1976. Several frames of footage shot as Voyager orbited 1600km above the surface of Mars appeared to show a remarkable 'face' in the rock. Nearby were several distinctly pyramid-like shapes. Hoagland and his team obtained the raw and unedited pictures from NASA and applied very sophisticated image-enhancing techniques to them. These techniques don't add any information to what is already there, they merely rearrange it in such a way that shadows and other features not visible in the original frames can be seen.

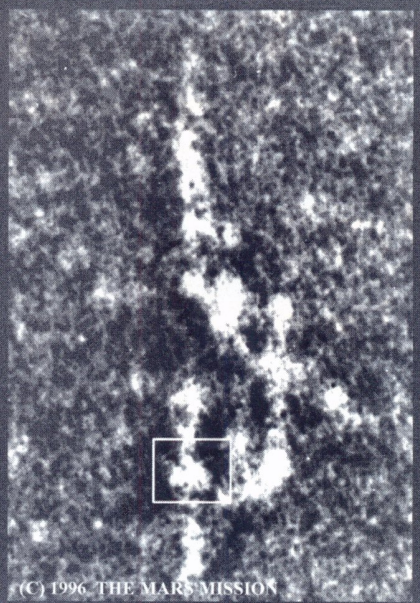
This may sound like cheating, forging or cooking the books, but it is an accepted method of enhancing the raw and not always suitable data that is transmitted back from spacecraft. Each and every official NASA image we publish here in AA&ES is enhanced by NASA in exactly the same way. Hoagland and other Mars researchers have ben accused of forgery and creating details that are not there, but all they are doing is using NASA's own techniques on NASA's own pictures. No hidden agenda on their side. What about the agenda at NASA I asked Hoagland.

Hoagland countered by throwing the question back at me. What did I know about NASA? Well, I told him, NASA is a public body set up to coordinate space research and travel by the US Government. "Wrong!" replied Hoagland. As part of his research into NASA's repeated rejection of outside reasearchers work and calls for a return to Cydonia he had looked into its history. He went back to NASA's constitution, only recently released by the US Government as part of their open government scheme.

The "Castle" -- an extraordinary, highly geometric, glittering glass object . . . "hanging" more than 9 miles above the surface of the Moon.

"Goddard" 4822

These Mars Mission computer enhancements of original NASA data from Apollo 10, reveal the existence of two *different* versions of "the Castle."



"Alex Cook's" 4822

The version on the left is from a "leaked" version of the original Apollo frame -- 4822; the version on the right is a "stereo pair" of the *same* geometric object.

Far from being a public body controlled by Senate, the articles of constitution state clearly that NASA is a military organisation, one of whose aims is to promote and develop space travel and rsearch. The relevant page, scanned directly from the original document, is reproduced here. This stunned me. The only people NASA was really accountable to, and who pulled the real strings, were not the American people through their Government, but the Pentagon!

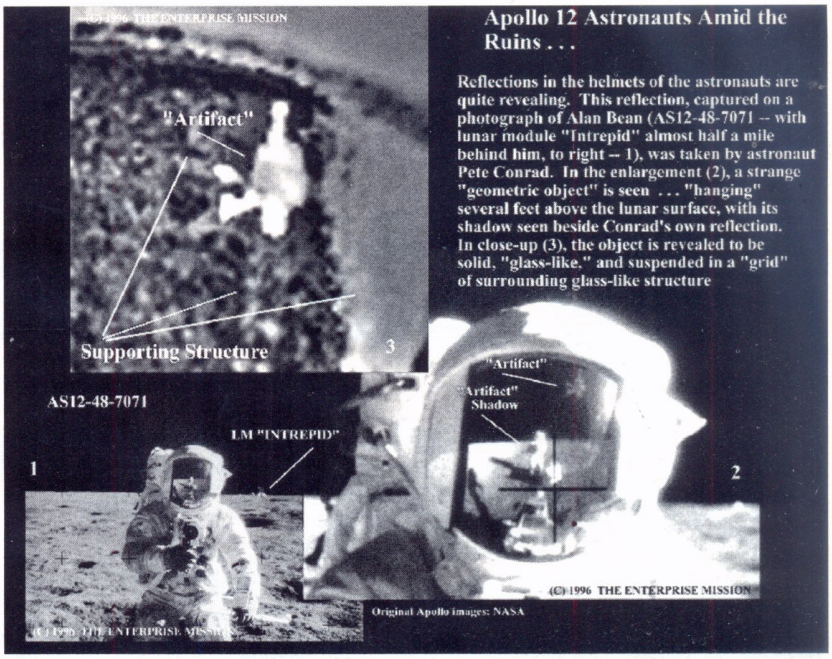
This obvious implications of this are far-reaching - what we all thought was a public service is really a part of America's military machine. Military agencies are not renowned for their truthfulness or their willingness to part with all of the story, so when NASA says there's nothing in the claims that there may be constructed artefacts on Mars, there may well be something there.

Hoagland and his team certainly believe so, as do many other Mars researchers around the world. And it seems that the idea is gaining credibility in the mainstream scientific world too. Hoagland told me that even his one-time friend and arch-critic Dr Carl Sagan is now calling on NASA to take the closer look at Cydonia.

For twenty years Hoagland and Sagan have been at intellectual loggerheads over Mars. Sagan, ever the sceptic, is now saying publicly that Hoagland has presented a strong enough case for another look at the enigmas and that NASA should take up the challenge. And they should - after all, if evidence (or the possibility of evidence) was found here on Earth of similar enigmas they would be investigated straight away. Look at how many Egyptologists, for example, make a very good living from the Pyramids and Temples of Ancient Egypt. The conclusions they come to are wrong (in my humble opinion!) but at least they're looking at matters.

Why are NASA so reluctant to look again at what could, if it's proved true, be far more exciting and significant than anything here? It's easy to fall into the trap of seeing conspiracies everywhere and using them to justify wild claims but that's not what's happening here. The work done on NASA's images is purely scientific - the calls to NASA are not for them to mount a new and expensive mission but to merely turn their cameras onto Cydonia for a short period of time when they'll almost be flying over the top of it anyway.

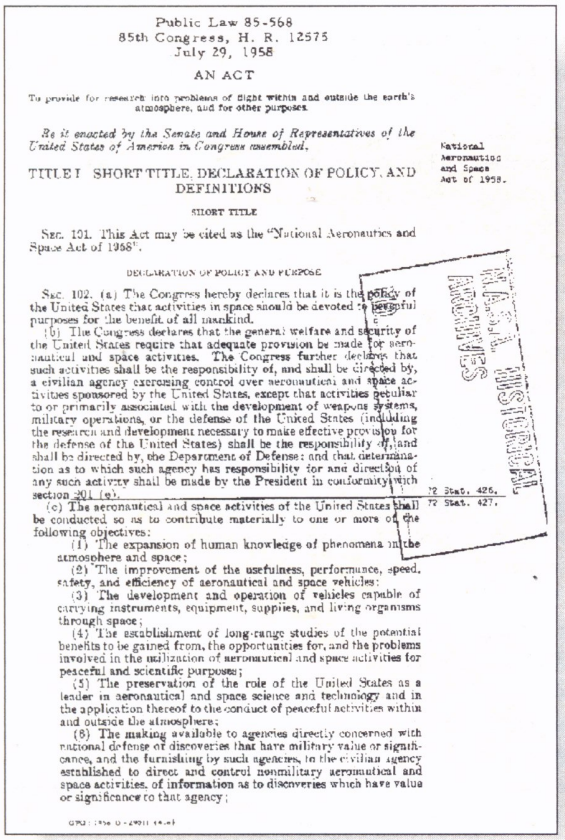
Another major area of Hoagland's interest is rather closer to home. The expereince gained studying the Mars images was put to use on some of the Apollo images taken on the Moon. Several contentious anomolies were discovered here, too. A large pillar of crystalline glass was discerned on several images, both directly and in reflections from astronaut's helmet visors. From triangulation Hoagland and his team have estimated the size and position of these anomolies and they appear significant.


Apollo 12 Astronauts Amid the Ruins . . .
Reflections in the helmets of the astronauts are quite revealing. This reflection, captured on a photograph of Alan Bean (AS12-48-7071 -- with lunar module "Intrepid" almost half a mile behind him, to right -- 1), was taken by astronaut Pete Conrad. In the enlargement (2), a strange "geometric object" is seen . . . "hanging" several feet above the lunar surface, with its shadow seen beside Conrad's own reflection. In close-up (3), the object is revealed to be solid, "glass-like," and suspended in a "grid" of surrounding glass-like structure
"Artifact"
Supporting Structure
3
AS12-48-7071
LM "INTREPID"
1
"Artifact"
"Artifact" Shadow
2
(C)1996 THE ENTERPRISE MISSION
Original Apollo images: NASA

Above: ***do these Apollo images show a large pillar of crystalline glass on the surface of the moon?***

Again NASA have no plans to go back for another look. Strange how, having gone to the Moon and sent back images of things they weren't expecting to see, they haven't been back since the 1970s. Any scientist knows that if you have a hunch or a shred of evidence then you go away and gather more proof until you can either prove, disprove or at least make a considered opinion as to its likely nature.

This simply isn't happening with NASA. They photograph things that could suggest we may have had intelligent neighbours at some time and they don't want to know! Why? Either it's nothing or it's something; there's no inbetween. So why don't they look? Could they be looking but supressing what they find "in the interests of national security"?



Public Law 85-568
85th Congress, H. R. 12575
July 29, 1958

AN ACT

To provide for research into problems of flight within and outside the earth's atmosphere, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958.

TITLE I SHORT TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND DEFINITIONS

SHORT TITLE

SEC. 101. This Act may be cited as the "National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958".

DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE

SEC. 102. (a) The Congress hereby declares that it is the policy of the United States that activities in space should be devoted to peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind.

(b) The Congress declares that the general welfare and security of the United States require that adequate provision be made for aeronautical and space activities. The Congress further declares that such activities shall be the responsibility of, and shall be directed by, a civilian agency exercising control over aeronautical and space activities sponsored by the United States, except that activities peculiar to or primarily associated with the development of weapons systems, military operations, or the defense of the United States (including the research and development necessary to make effective provision for the defense of the United States) shall be the responsibility of, and shall be directed by, the Department of Defense; and that determination as to which such agency has responsibility for and direction of any such activity shall be made by the President in conformity with section 201 (e).

72 Stat. 426.
72 Stat. 427.

(c) The aeronautical and space activities of the United States shall be conducted so as to contribute materially to one or more of the following objectives:

(1) The expansion of human knowledge of phenomena in the atmosphere and space;

(2) The improvement of the usefulness, performance, speed, safety, and efficiency of aeronautical and space vehicles;

(3) The development and operation of vehicles capable of carrying instruments, equipment, supplies, and living organisms through space;

(4) The establishment of long-range studies of the potential benefits to be gained from, the opportunities for, and the problems involved in the utilization of aeronautical and space activities for peaceful and scientific purposes;

(5) The preservation of the role of the United States as a leader in aeronautical and space science and technology and in the application thereof to the conduct of peaceful activities within and outside the atmosphere;

(6) The making available to agencies directly concerned with national defense of discoveries that have military value or significance, and the furnishing by such agencies, to the civilian agency established to direct and control nonmilitary aeronautical and space activities, of information as to discoveries which have value or significance to that agency;

SCIENTIFIC SPECULATION

GPO : 1958 O - 429111 (4-4)

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Hoagland's asking a lot of questions but not getting answers. Either NASA don't know and don't care or they know and care enough not to tell the rest of us. Much of his work is high profile; television appearances, seminars, articles, interviews and so on. But a lot goes on behind the scenes, too. Constant lobbying of Senators and Congressmen, scientists and academics. Things are slowly starting to move and the pressure is on NASA to look again at their mission results. Where possible they are being encouraged to use existing projects to make further study, at minimal cost. Thanks to people like Hoagland and his fellow researchers around the globe pressure is being brought to bear on NASA. We'll be supporting him, and researchers here in the UK, in their efforts to discover more - stay tuned!

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